

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)/Rumania REPORT 25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. About 20 October 1954, landing exercises were performed by Soviet Army units and vessels of the Second Squadron of the Black Sea Fleet along the Black Sea coast between the Danube and Dneestr estuaries.¹ Landings were made near the villages of Budaky (N 45-58, E 30-16), Tuzla (N 45-52, E 30-05), and Kaplany and southwest of Akkermah (N 46-12, E 30-21), near Bababanka. The exercises were conducted for approximately five consecutive days. 25X1
2. The ground forces participating in the exercises were furnished by Odessa army headquarters and consisted of two infantry divisions, one armored division, two or three coastal defense battalions, and various technical and medical units. Some naval air squadrons also participated.
3. Landing operations were preceded by a simulated air and naval bombardment. The air and naval fire took place simultaneously and was immediately followed by heavy rocket fire directed toward the target area along the coast. The rockets did not explode upon hitting the ground but burst into flames, like bangalore torpedoes. The flames were visible from a great distance.
4. About thirty of the landing craft which took part in the exercises were of a new type. This was their first appearance in the Black Sea. Presumably, these new craft had been constructed in the Mariupol shipyards. Each vessel was capable of transporting two companies with full equipment, or one company and three light tanks, or an entire battery. The new craft each had the following characteristics:
 - a. Flat bottom.
 - b. Displacement of approximately 200 tons.
 - c. Armored bow with retractable ramp.
 - d. Partly covered deck.
 - e. Armament consisting of one howitzer and several 37 mm guns. 25X1

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5. The other landing craft participating in the exercises were of a heavier type and were used for transporting T-34 tanks. These vessels bore the designation TYA.TTP-10 and carried the same armament as the ships described in Paragraph 4.
6. The landing vessels approached the shore in line formation. Small naval craft interspersed among them protected their advance by launching numerous rockets, which were probably very powerful. The rocket launchers had a range of about four kilometers.
7. At Budaky (N 45-58, E 30-16), where the zone suitable for landing was small, the heavier landing craft beached alongside one another. At the other landing locations, they beached some distance apart. The tanks disembarked after the vessels beached.
8. Soviet occupation forces in Rumania recently conducted joint maneuvers with army units from several satellite countries. Further details were not available.

1. Comment: In June 1954, Inflat warned merchant ships that the area in the vicinity of the Dnestr estuary was restricted.

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